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FILE ONLY

Students protest CIA at U of I

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Of The Register's Iowa City Bureau

IOWA CITY, IA. — About a dozen University of Iowa students who opposed CIA job interviews on campus created a short scuffle in the student union Thursday, but none of the protesters was arrested.

The students tried to force their way through five security guards and one university official stationed at the base of the stairway leading to the university placement office on the third floor, where a CIA officer was conducting interviews for political analysts.

"We're going into that office and we're going to confront the CIA recruiter," shouted Josie Rawson, a senior from Ames, one of the protest leaders.

The students pushed their way up to the third step, then sat down and demanded that they be allowed to speak to the CIA recruiter. About 50 other students stood by, shouting their approval of the sit-in.

A security officer on the stairway videotaped the students on the floor below.

The protest broke up after about an hour when Philip Hubbard, dean of academic affairs, announced that the CIA recruiter would give five or six protesters a three-minute audience. The students declared victory, left the union about 2 p.m. and returned at 5:30 p.m. to speak with the recruiter.

Hubbard led five students and one person not connected with the university to a lounge on the second floor, where

the CIA representative, who would not give his name, faced them.

The recruiter listened silently as the students asked whether he was recruiting U of I students to mine Nicaraguan harbors, overthrow Democratic governments in the Third World or waste American tax dollars.

"We hold the CIA publicly responsible for acts of war and terrorism," said Ann Roan, a senior from Denver, Colo.

When the three minutes were up the recruiter said, "I don't agree with what you say, but I'm willing to defend with my life your right to say it."

Earlier in the day the protesters ran into some opposition from fellow students.

As about 50 protesters listened to anti-CIA speeches in front of the administration building, students passing by booed.

"You don't represent the mainstream," shouted James Brady, a senior from Fort Madison.

Another passer-by shouted, "Vandalism off campus," apparently referring to the red, orange and black anti-CIA graffiti spray-painted Wednesday night on eight university buildings.

During a similar anti-CIA protest Tuesday at Iowa State University in Ames, three people were arrested and charged with trespassing after refusing to end a sit-in at the ISU Engineering Annex Building.